for the manufacture of MiG series of aircraft, its engines and aggregates for the Indian Air Force.

To meet the enhanced requirement of IAF, an Inter-Governmental Agreement between Government of India and Russia was signed on 4th October, 2000 for licence manufacture of SU-30 MKI aircraft at HAL.

In addition, the Government of India have accorded approval to HAL for holding discussions with international partners of Russia for co-design, co-development and co-production of Multirole Transport Aircraft (MTA-Cargo- and Passenger versions). A Heads of Agreement (HOA) has been signed by HAL with Russian partners, Ilyushin Aviation Complex (ILAC), Irkutsk, Aviation Industrial Association (IAIA) and Rosoboronexport on 6th June, 2001 during Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission meeting held in Moscow. A joint detailed Project report is under preparation. The project is proposed to be launched based on approval of the respective Governments of India and the Russian Federation.

Such joint programmes with Russia are likely to result in the creation of capabilities within the country of producing world-class aircraft, engines and other airborne equipment.

Purchase of sniffer dogs

108 SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of officials had rushed to Hyderabad to purchase a large number of sniffer dogs;

(b) if so, what is the background of raising such an unprecedented demand of special dogs instantly; and

(c) how long did it take to clear the proposal and how much fund would be required ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) A team of officials of Delhi Police visited Hyderabad in the month of May, 2002 for selection of sniffer dogs offered by one of the bidders found to be technically qualified.

(b) The Government had accorded its approval for purchase of 33 sniffer dogs while sanctioning creation of 3 Bomb Disposal Squads, 9 Bomb

Detection Teams and 9 mobile crime teams. In addition, there was a shortage of 14 dogs in the existing strength of Delhi Police. As such an open tender was floated by Delhi Police for the procurement of 47 dogs.

(c) The procurement procedure was completed by Delhi Police in about 6 months. The total expenditure to be incurred on procurement of these 47 dogs is Rs. 8.52 lakhs.

NHRC criticism on Gujarat police

109. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that National Human Rights Commission has strongly criticised the context of the chargesheet filed by the Gujarat Police in the Best Bakery Baroda case during the communal carnage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government in the light of its responsibility enshrined in Article 355 of the constitution and the support provided by the Government to Gujaral Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The National Human Rights Commission has, in its report, observed that in view of the widespread allegations that FIRs have been poorly or wrongly recorded, and that investigations are being influenced by extraneous considerations or players, the integrity of the process has to be restored. It has, therefore, recommended the entrusting of certain critical cases to the CBI, including that of the Best Bakery case in Vadodara. The Government has examined this recommendation. Under the existing law, the CBI can take up the investigation of cases only if the State Government agrees for such an investigation. Since the State Government in this case has not requested for a CBI investigation and is investigating the matter through the State agencies, it is not possible for the Central Government to direct the CBI to take up the investigation of the above cases, as per the recommendation of the National Human Rights Commission.

The Central Government has provided adequate support to the State Government through deputation of para-military forces for maintaining law and